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been stranded on the coast of England, and persons properly qualified have been sent from London to examine and preserve this wonderful creature.

Died....The Earl of Orford: he is succeeded by his son Lord Walpole, now Earl of Orford. In London, General Mordaunt, aged 79. The Right Hon. the Dowager Lady Ashburton. Mr. Richard Sterling, Nursery-man, after a long and painful illness, occasioned by smoking a pipe, which caused a cancer in his lip, by not waxing the end before he put it into his mouth.

JERSEY.

St. HILIER, February 27:—"Two seamen, J. Hubert and J. Bertant, natives of the island of Jersey, lately effected their escape from the horrors of a French prison. They had been confined, with several of their countrymen, for many months at Valenciennes. They eluded the vigilance of their guards, with two of their companions, who, from their imprudence in the neighbourhood of Caen, were apprehended, and sent back to their former habitation. Our two adventurers were near six weeks in travelling through the country between Valenciennes and Concale Bay. The greatest part of the journey was performed in the night-time, and in most inclement weather. Having gained the coast, they, after a long and cautious search, discovered a small boat, anchored about a mile from the shore—they waited till the tide had partly ebbed, when, fearful of being detected, if they waited till it was low-water, one of them swam off to the boat, which was without oars or sails; he consequently returned to his ship-mate disheartened and despairing; fortunately they soon afterwards found the oars, which had been carried by the careful fisherman close to his hut, and, though nearly exhausted with famine and fatigue, they arrived in St. Catherine's Bay the evening of the second day after they embarked, having been three days and nights without any kind of sustenance. Their limbs were much swollen, and in some places ulcerated, in consequence of the hardships they had undergone.—They report that, understanding and speaking the language of the country, they in some places, when obliged to beg for food, represented themselves as conscripts who had deserted, and frequently were obliged to confess their real situation.—They assert that they were uniformly relieved to the full extent of the means of the charitable peasants to whom they applied, were often permitted to secret themselves in their cottages in the day-time, and were directed by their generous entertainers, in the safest routes, and where they might successfully apply for assistance. The lower orders in France are represented as being in the most wretched and oppressed condition, and unanimously averse to a continuation of the war; and it is certain that however much Bonaparte may be idolized by the army, he is detested by the people. When an English prisoner of war is detected in attempting to evade the miseries of a French prison, he is confined, sometimes for three or six months, at the pleasure of his gaoler, in a dark and damp dungeon, without bedding of any description, and his existence barely prolonged by a scanty allowance of bad black bread and water, nor is he permitted to have communication with any one but his keepers.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From February 20, till March 20, 1809.

SINCE last Report the weather has been extremely favourable for the business of the farm, and much work has been done by the plough, and in some districts a considerable progress made in sowing oats.

The wheat crops continue to look well, and a considerable degree of vegetation appears on the grass grounds, which if not checked by frosts, seem to promise an early supply of grass for the stock of young cattle.

The prices of grain and oatmeal have fallen a good deal since last Report. Potatoes are plenty and cheaper in the markets, the fears of scarcity have now subsided, and we trust it will be found that the crops of last year were not so defective as was apprehended.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

THERE is cause to congratulate the Public, that the fears of the distillation being permitted from grain in Ireland, as expressed in the last Month's Report, have not been realized. This *job*, for such there is good reason to believe it was, has been rendered abortive. The voice of the People against this measure has been well and publicly expressed. The reader is referred to page 231, for a petition on this subject from the inhabitants of Banbridge and the adjoining parishes, in which the ill

effects of permitting distillation from grain, are detailed in manly terms, while they allude with great propriety to the distressing prospect of the want of Flaxseed. On looking back at the transactions which took place at the meeting of Linen-drapers at Armagh, a comparison of the two dissimilar modes adopted in the two cases, forcibly demands our attention. In the meetings respecting the distilleries, the mode of petitioning the legislature was adopted, and the measure of the man whom the majority of the meeting at Armagh addressed, and whom they attempted to constitute the guardian and tutelary genius of the Linen trade, was defeated. As might have been expected, no substantial relief in the latter case was experienced; but the cause of the grievance, the Orders in Council, remain in full force, without any attempts on his part to have them removed. His palliative measures shall be discussed presently. Good effects however have resulted from the meeting at Armagh. The danger to which we are fast approaching, was pointed out to the Public in the report of the proceedings of that meeting, the accuracy of which has remained uncontradicted and unquestioned, at least as far as appears to the Public. By the exertions of the minority of Linen-drapers the case has been brought before the two Houses of Parliament, and our suffering state alluded to, almost in the very words of "The Considerations." Success did not attend, but it is still consolatory that our case did not pass unstated during the debates on the Orders in Council. It is impossible to admit the validity of the plea, that it was dangerous to expose our situation, and the inconveniences we were likely to sustain from the want of Flaxseed, to the powers with whom these nations are at war, or to the Americans, lest the latter should rise in their demands. All these dangers have been since announced in the official letters to, and from John Foster, and no greater risque attended in letting the truth be known three months ago, than at the present time. But the danger then appeared remote: and though the nature of man is properly defined to be that of a being who "looks before and after," yet distant dangers often pass unheeded; until pressed by immediate danger, we admit our former culpable inattention in not taking timely precautions.

It is extremely doubtful whether the bounty of five shillings per bushel on the first 50,000 bushels of foreign Flaxseed imported from Great Britain into Ireland, between the 8th of the present month and the 8th of the next month, will tend materially to increase our supply of this much-needed article; at least it is allowable to doubt the propriety of that part of the act, which takes the responsibility off the seller, on giving a certificate; and causes a consequent danger of bad seed being more readily imposed on the Public. In the present scarcity it is of the highest importance *that the seed sown should be of the very best quality*, as a defective crop in the small quantity likely to be sown would be highly distressing. The answer of the Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer to the address, attempts to turn attention from the present distress, to a distant future prospect of relief, in raising hereafter our own Flaxseed. The old proverb "live horse and get grass in summer," affords slender consolation in the pinching season of winter, or during the cold blasts of spring. Yet, to promote this measure, the sum of £20,000 has been voted by the House of Commons, to be put under the direction of the Linen Board. Probably few will be willing to risk any part of the ensuing small crop of Flax on an experiment, which must as yet be considered as hazardous, and uncertain; notwithstanding strong hopes may be entertained, that in common years it may succeed. The distribution of this public money will however increase the patronage of the Linen Board, and of its efficient director.

It is not consistent with the plan of this Report to enter further into Parliamentary proceedings, than as far as relates to trade. The notice therefore of the debate in the House of Commons, on the address to relax in the system of the Orders in Council, must be brief. Samuel Whitbread, in a luminous speech, pointed out the pernicious consequences of this measure in strong terms; and thus alludes to its consequences on the state of the Linen and Cotton manufactures:

"If you wish to ascertain the extent of the injury inflicted on this country by these Orders, I call upon you to reflect upon the condition of the extensive town of Manchester, where out of forty-nine thousand persons employed before the issuing of those Orders, a great proportion are thrown out of bread; where of the numerous cotton-mills which were formerly employed, thirty-two are now idle, and six only at work. Cast your eyes to Ireland, and behold the state of its Linen

manufacture for the want of Flaxseed. Whence can it be supplied? Not from America or from the Baltic. And as to the probability of an advantageous intercourse with the Brazils, I am not so sanguine as to expect in the course, not alone of my life, but of many persons in this House younger than myself. But suppose that such advantage should arrive much sooner than I am induced to believe, what, I ask, is to be done for the supply of the passing year, or that which succeeds? But then we shall be told of what has been done by the embargo-breakers. What have they brought to this country? Some cotton wool. But have they brought Flaxseed?—Have they brought turpentine—and many other articles of essential importance to the trade and manufactures of Great Britain? I can see little ground of consolation in this system of embargo-breaking."

Henry Grattan, in glowing and energetic language, alluded to the impolicy of alienating America from these countries, and mentioned the distressing situation of Ireland with regard to Flaxseed.

It is almost needless to add, that the motion for a change in the system of commercial warfare was negatived by a considerable majority.

The present state of public opinion in America receives elucidation from the fact, that the election of the President and Vice-president was carried by a majority of more than two to one in favour of the men who are supposed to be friendly to the measures of Jefferson's administration. This circumstance implies a strong sanction of popular feeling in their favour. The complaints from the News-papers published in some of their sea ports would lead us to suppose, if we gave credit to them, that the general sentiment was adverse to the embargo, and non-intercourse acts. But the cause of this mistake is well explained in the subjoined paragraph extracted from the Morning Chronicle:

"From the connection of this country, almost exclusively, with the commercial towns of America, there has been much mistatement as to the effect of the Embargo on the general interest of the United States. Great detriment has undoubtedly been occasioned to the proprietors of shipping, and to the dealers in produce, but those concerned in the infant manufactures of that country have largely benefited by the measure. We know that some of the articles, supplied hitherto by the labour and ingenuity of the artizans and mechanics of Birmingham, are now manufactured at Philadelphia, at the price at which they were before imported; and in the neighbourhood of that city one thousand additional houses have been lately built, on account of the flourishing condition of the inhabitants, from the extent of their interior trade."

A private letter from New York, dated the 6th ult. and received by the last Packet, the Princess Amelia, confirms the preceding account, by shewing, that notwithstanding the distress in some maritime towns, in which the population is chiefly supported by foreign trade, the current of popular feeling is adverse to the British Orders. "We feel pretty severely on our trade the effects of our pending disputes with the wrangling European powers, and of our embargo in consequence for more than twelve months past, and now a severe winter is productive of much hardship to poor people here. We expect our embargo soon to be removed, but if there is not a previous agreement with England, it is much to be feared a war will be the consequence, which in my opinion, though not in that of many others, will make things still worse. Our political state you will have from our papers; but we have here parties as well as you, and unless you get the papers of both sides you will be misled.—The republican party, or those disposed to resist foreign aggression, are much the strongest."

The sufferings of our transatlantic brethren afford however no compensation for our sufferings. In some cases, like ourselves, some may gain by the war, while the many lose. War, commercial war, not less than other warfare, produces innumerable mutual injuries, and when the account of sufferings is fairly balanced, leaves no reason for either side to rejoice.

"Ah! why will kings forget that they are men,
"And men that they are brethren!"

The price of Flaxseed is not yet fixed—Some American seed was lately sold in Dublin at 18½ guineas per hhd. Before this seed comes into the hands of the sower its price must necessarily be considerably increased. Fifteen guineas per barrel are asked for some Riga seed in Belfast. What a melancholy prospect! Nature supplies us liberally: but the people must pay dearly for the blunders of Statesmen. Such are the effects of Orders in Council

Exchange during this month in Belfast has mostly rated from 5 to 5½ per cent for guineas, and from 7 to 7¼ for Bank notes. Latterly on the 'Change of Belfast, the mode of having a rate of exchange also for Bank notes, has begun to prevail The discount on notes is at 1½ to 1¾ per cent. Bank notes now form in Belfast the general medium in which the bills are made payable; consequently the demand for guineas is lessening, and the value of them decreasing. It remains yet to trace the effects of an increased supply of paper when the two additional Banks shall commence business.

The Irish administration have been a second time left in a minority in the Imperial Parliament, and the additional duty on malt negatived.

Further discussion has taken place in the House of Commons on the bounty to be granted on raising Irish flax-seed. Both sides generally agree in the propriety of making the experiment, but not without strong censure, from some of the speakers on the effects of the Orders in Council. One member (Horner) denominated them, one of those absurd systems of barbarous warfare, which went as far as possible to drive us back to the barbarism and impolicy, which marked the days of the Stuarts." Sir John Newport gave his sanction to the measure, as hoping it might secure Ireland from being hereafter dependent on other countries for the staple of her principal manufacture; but expressed a wish that care would be taken, *how the sum granted was expended.*

Since the foregoing Report has been drawn up, it appears that the Embargo law in America, has received some alterations. But it is by no means certain how far this alteration may open the American ports so as to give us reason to hope that flax-seed can be received in time for this Spring's sowing. If the non-intercourse act remains in force, the commercial communication between the two countries, must be carried on in a circuitous manner. The proceedings of Congress are yet involved in obscurity, which probably may not be cleared up, till after this Report goes to the press: but let the business terminate as it may, the impolicy of the Orders in Council still remains undiminished, it being a struggle between the two countries, which from its necessities would first be compelled to yield. Nor can any justification be derived from any repeal of the Embargo, the act of a foreign government, for the conduct of the majority at Armagh, who as far as their influence went, were contented to stake the essential interests of their country, on the cast of so precarious a chance.

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from February 20, till March 20.

Barometer.....highest	30	40	Thermometer.....highest	47	10
mean	30	0	lowest	32	30
lowest	29	10	mean	43	00

Typhus	7	Common contagious fever.
Pneumonia	1	Pleurisy.
Sphacelus	1	Mortification.
Opthalmia	4	Inflammation of the eyes.
Erysipelas	1	Rose.
Cynanche trachealis	1	Croup.
Nephritis	1	Inflammation of the liver.
Rheumatismus acutus	2	Acute rheumatism.
Arthrodynia	1	Chronic rheumatism.
Aphtha	1	Thrush.
Phthysis Pulmonalis	1	Consumption.
Asthma	2	Asthma.
Hydrothorax	1	Dropsy of the Chest.
Dyspepsia	2	Indigestion.
Asthenia	4	Nervous Debility.
Hæmoptysis	1	Spitting of blood.
Catarrhus	2	Common cold.
Diarrhœa	1	Looseness.
Scrophula	3	Evil.
Herpes	3	Ringworm, or tetter.
Hæmorrhois	2	Piles.